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Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) WEB regrets declaration by Chamber President reflects on first 6 months as independent entity



Mrs. Ronella Tjin Asjoe - Croes

ORANJESTAD -- During a recent press conference, CEO of ATA, Mrs. Ronella Tjin Asjoe - Croes, and her administrative team, CMO Sanju Luidens - Daryanani and CFO Dylan Calister, presented a summary of the figures for the past six months of 2011 as well as an update of the development of the new ATA during the past six months.

As of January this year, ATA began operating as a new entity. They affirmed that they will put emphasis on distributing all relevant information regarding our tourism to all stakeholders and to the community in general. They are cognizant of the obligation as a public independent entity to maintain transparency. As such, they have sent numerous info memos out, have organized various press conferences, and have made public the figures relative to visitor statistics. The reports for the months of January to March have been circulated and the April and May reports are forthcoming.

These reports contain information regarding number of

visitors, hotel results of member hotels, update of activities of each Caribbean region where ATA have invested.

Minister Oduber, is intent on having ATA focus on, first of all, improving the income we receive from each visitor, in other words, to improve on the quality of visitors coming to Aruba while at the same time to continue working on the quantity of visitors.

We should also be stimulating visitor arrivals especially in those low months as we seek to diversify the market with attracting new airlifts.

ATA's main roll now is to focus primarily on marketing and promotion. This focus is geared especially towards attracting top quality visitors, which is what Aruba wants.

One concern that ATA has is that crucial information needed to measure the quality of our visitors and the progression on this area is not readily available to ATA.

They refer specifically to the "Average Daily Expenditure" (ADE) which comes from CBS but which is not current and up to date. They are in the hopes of receiving this information as soon as possible. In the mean time they are measuring the quality of our tourists based on the ADR & RevPar which comes from AHATA.

ATA is completely satisfied with the results over the past months. They are complying with the objectives regarding amount of visitors, quality of visitors, diversification and airlift.

During the first four and a



Sanju Luidens - Daryanani

half months ATA dedicated a great deal of time and attention to their personnel who had a very difficult decision to make...remain with ATA or not.

According to Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, one other important step taken in the past six months was the appointment of a Supervisory Board consisting of Jossy Lacle, Juni Croes, Myrna Jansen, Ed Malone, Ewald Biemans, Jim Hople and Warren Stanley. ATA now meets twice monthly with this Supervisory Board.

ATA has finalized; and the Board has approved their marketing plan and the 2011 budget, giving them the authority to move ahead as of the start of the year. The Board also reviewed the Business Plan to ensure that this is in keeping with the reality. Now they are bending over the set up of an administrative process for ATA and other projects to make certain that everything runs smoothly and soundly.

ATA as an independent entity is able to manage more responsibly and punctual with flexibility. They can also move ahead rapidly with decisions and so doing not lose important opportunities in the various markets.



ORANJESTAD -- Management of WEB decided to react to expressions made by the Aruba Chamber of Commerce President in the July 4th edition of the BON DIA daily. Mr. Jamal Khan, Chamber President made several strong remarks with respect to WEB's intention to raise the tariffs on water and electricity. According to Khan, says WEB, the water company has been taking the "people for a ride" for many years and that he supports the move to stop the proposed tariff increase. WEB reports that Khan obviously does not have all the information on the matter, and they lament the fact that Khan did not take the time to verify his information prior to making his declaration. WEB is of the opinion that an institution such as the Chamber of Commerce should have all the correct information before they speak and misinform the people of Aruba.

WEB reports that Khan remarked about...."if you can make public your need for an increase of the tariffs, you must also make public with figures why you need to make such an increase; but WEB does not do this." However, WEB declares that Khan never once approached them to get this information before making his declara-

tion.

WEB claims that their last tariff adjustment was supported by their Supervisory Counsel. Their accounting advisors Price Waterhouse & Coopers also confirmed their intent, which confirmation was requested by Utilities Aruba NV and the Government.

WEB is also unhappy about Khan's expression... "the company should not be so intent on generating a profit. That is WEB and Elmar's problem; they are too focused on a large profit margin."

WEB declares that this is not the case with them as a company. They showed how in 2010 their net margin was 9.5 Million florins, about 2%, for 2009 it was 9.75 million florins at 3%. This, according to them shows that they have a minimum margin of profit.

As another example, they lowered the tariffs in October 2010 when they forecasted a higher margin of profit than their profit goal. They contend that they attempt to maintain a profit margin sufficient to remain financially sound in order to make new investments and to comply with their existing bank obligations. Their objective is never to generate large profits.

Continued on page 3

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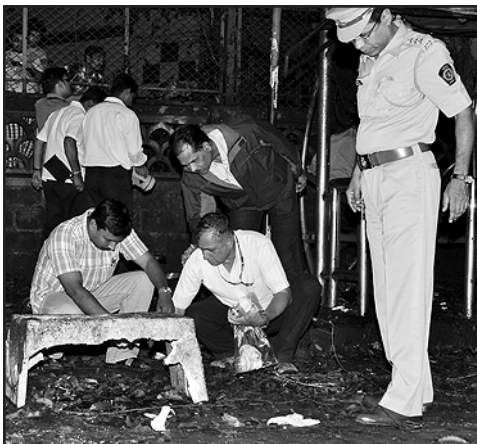
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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

US condemns 'despicable' Mumbai attacks



Indian security personnel and investigators gather at a bomb blast site in the Dadar District of Mumbai

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - The United States condemned Wednesday's multiple bomb attacks in Mumbai, with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton calling them "despicable" and vowing to visit India next week as planned.

US President Barack Obama also issued a written

statement condemning the deadliest attack on India's commercial capital since the traumatic 2008 assault by Islamist militants.

Three bombs exploded in busy districts of southern Mumbai at around 7:00 pm local time, time when many were on their way home after work, while others were eating snacks in the narrow and bustling streets around Mumbai's abandoned opera house.

Fire brigade floodlights showed the full extent of the damage in a claustrophobic side street in the crowded working-class district and diamond trading hub.

It was the same area targeted two and half years ago by suspected Pakistani militants who caused mayhem and

bloodshed during a 60-hour siege that left 166 people dead.

No group claimed responsibility for the latest attacks, though suspicions initially fell on two Islamist groups that have targeted India in the past: the home-grown Indian Mujahideen and the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

"More than 5,000 people pass through here every minute," said Jayesh Labdhi, a committee member of the Mumbai Diamond Merchants' Association near the wreckage of a white car. "At about 6.50 (pm) there was a huge big blast. We didn't know what it was but after a couple of minutes we saw so much smoke everywhere. There were so many people lying on the ground just crying out and wanting help," he told AFP.

At least 21 people died and some 140 injured according to the local authorities in the deadliest attack since 2008.

UN body recommends South Sudan be newest member

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Security Council on Wednesday recommended the admission of South Sudan as the newest member of the United Nations, a decision which goes to the UN General Assembly today.

The move comes after South Sudan declared independence before tens of thousands of its citizens and numerous foreign leaders Saturday following nearly 50 years of war with Sudan and millions of deaths.

The international community, and in particular the U. S., China, Russia and the E.U., were quick to recognize the world's newest country, which

despite its vast oil reserves is among the poorest in the world.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon recalled that the people of South Sudan had lived through a 21-year civil war. "The toll in lives lost and people displaced can be counted in the millions," he said.

"Now they have a country to call their own but in many ways the hard work has just begun."

"The UN must be at the center and the leadership and direction of the Security Council will be crucial in the months and the years ahead."

Venezuela retakes prison after deadliest-ever riot



File photo-President Chavez

CARACAS, (AFP) - Venezuela has finally succeeding in wresting back control of a notorious prison, quelling a month-long uprising that was the bloodiest in the country's history, officials said Wednesday.

"Today, we are happy to report that we have put an end to the riot at the El Rodeo prison, where almost 1,000 inmates held us at bay for almost a month and where some 30 prisoners died," said Interior Minister Tarek El Aissami.

"Happily, we have resolved the crisis peacefully," he said, adding inmates at the facility were now "safe, sound and in custody."

The government said that a group of heavily armed inmates were responsible for the takeover, holding the other inmates hostage and preventing them from turning themselves in since June 12.

"The intervention phase is now over, and we will start reconstruction of the penitentiary center," Aissami said.

A total of 831 inmates were now under the control of guards, and were receiving the necessary medical treatment.

Officials said the mutineers had been armed with guns and even grenades, explaining the difficulty in regaining control of the facility, lying some 40 kilometers (24 miles) outside Caracas.

Some 4,000 members of the national guard were deployed in the operation to take back the prison.

As with much of the rest of Latin America, Venezuela suffers from a serious prison violence and crowding problem. The El Rodeo prison was originally designed to hold just 750 inmates but was home to some 4,700 prisoners.

The country's prisons, built to hold some 14,000 inmates, currently hold about 50,000, officials said.

About 300 prisoners die every year from violent attacks or the bad conditions within prison walls, according to human rights groups, which have counted some 121 deaths in the first quarter of 2011.

President Hugo Chavez on Wednesday praised prison authorities' success in finally retaking the facility.

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Ingrid Does
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Chandette Richardson
Editors

Marline v. d. Linden
Asst. to the editors

Rosalie Klein
Reporter / Photographer

Yvonne Kromhout
P.R., Sales & Marketing

Yanis Garcia
Paula Iglesias
Sales

News Provider:
AFP-Agence France Presse

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

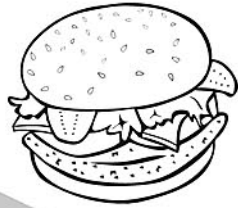
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WEB regrets declaration by Chamber President

Continued from page 1

WEB's primary goal is to produce and distribute water and electricity of the highest quality on a reliable basis and at the most economical tariff possible.

According to WEB, the price of electricity here on Aruba is the cheapest in the region with the exception of Trinidad and Puerto Rico.

WEB declares that the

purpose of their rebuttal to the Chamber's comments is not in an effort to attack the Chamber of Commerce or Mr. Khan, but simply to set the record straight. WEB is open to sitting down with Mr. Khan and the Chamber of Commerce to provide them with more information on the issues raised.

Brazil approves big food company merger



SAO PAULO, Brazil (AFP) - Brazilian authorities Wednesday approved the merger of food companies Sadia and Perdigão to create a major global producer to be called Brasil Foods.

The new company will have annual revenues of some 23 billion reais (\$13 billion), some 110,000 employees in

Brazil and will be one of the biggest global poultry exporters.

The agency said that the new firm will not be able to use the Perdigão brand for three to five years, and will be unable to create new brands, which could help competing firms.

In new try, Cuban dissidents push for political opening

HAVANA, Cuba (AFP) - Leading dissidents in Cuba on Wednesday launched a reform plan seeking a democratic opening in the Americas' only one-party Communist-run state.

More than 40 prominent members of a range of outlawed small parties and movements signed and issued the document calling for new laws and a plebiscite as a transition to democracy after more than five decades of communism.

They called upon their more than 11 million fellow Cubans to carry out a "genuine national dialogue and start the process of legal

changes that exclude no one, so that Cubans can keep the positive things they have built, and change however they care to, the things they want to change."

Dubbed the "People's Path," the document was signed by dissidents including Guillermo Farinas, Laura Polan, Martha Beatriz Roque, Hector Maceda, Elizardo Sanchez and Oswaldo Paya.

It calls for Cubans to be restored their freedom of movement inside and outside Cuba; and for freedoms of the press, association, and religion to be guaranteed; and for all people to be eligible for elective office regardless

of party affiliation.

"The document was drawn up by all of us who have signed, and I think it is viable and a necessary message to the Cuban people," said Paya, who won the 2002 Sakharov rights prize for an earlier initiative seeking democratic opening which he spearheaded. The government rejected it.

There was no immediate Cuban government reaction to Wednesday's announcement. Havana however denies that it has political prisoners, and routinely smears dissidents as "mercenaries" in the pay of the United States.

NYT to repay Carlos Slim in August

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - The New York Times Co. said Wednesday it would fully repay a \$250-million loan from Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim in August, faster than previously expected.

The newspaper company took out the loan, which carried a hefty 14 percent interest rate, in January 2009 after its advertising revenues took a nosedive amid the financial crisis.

It was originally scheduled to pay back Carlos Slim -- the world's richest man, according to Forbes

magazine -- in January 2015. Instead the company will repay the loan on August 15, it said in a statement. Last year, it had indicated it would pay Slim back in 2012.

"Over the past two years we have significantly strengthened the Times Company's cash position and our considerable and focused efforts have allowed us to prepay the notes far ahead of schedule," chief executive Janet Robinson said in the statement.

The early repayment of the loan would save the company \$39 million per year in

annual interest payments, the company said.

Slim, whose assets range from telecommunications to oil and art, has been at the top of the Forbes rich list for two years in a row.

The holding controlled by him and his family, Grupo Financiero Inbursa, owns 6.9 percent of class A shares of the The New York Times Co., making him one of the largest individual shareholders in the Times outside of the Sulzbergers, the wealthy US family that controls the newspaper company.



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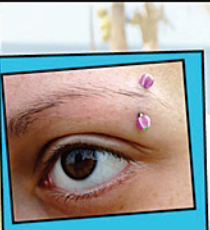
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San Nicolas, July 1st 2011

Ref: request for assurance as to the issues of concern in reference to the building of the hotel at Seroe Colorado:

- (1) prevention of an 'all inclusive' license of operations; and
- (2) Baby Beach for the locals.

Most Honorable Prime Minister,

Apparently the final arrangement or settlement of the hotel project "Seroe Colorado" is coming to the "status of realization".

To end any doubt or uncertainty, we of the SNBA, are approaching you for clarity and assurance on issues of serious concern as to this project.

Constantly worried members and citizens of p'ariba di brug approach us with questions. At this point and time, the two issues of most concern are:

- (1) if the project will be that of an "all inclusive" hotel; and
- (2) how can it be prevented that Baby Beach becomes in some manner or the other an elongated part of the hotel and ends up lost for the locals?

Ad 1. 'All inclusive'

If this hotel attains a license which would allow it to become an all inclusive resort, then San Nicolas will not be gaining in an economic sense of its establishment. An all inclusive hotel will entail among others that the development of satellite businesses and down town San Nicolas businesses will not come about as would otherwise be the case and thus that San Nicolas will not benefit from its establishment. It is of significant importance for SNBA to attain clarity in this and your fullest assurance that you will take all necessary measures to ensure that this hotel project can not become one with an 'all inclusive' status and that San Nicolas will benefit optimally in general and in economic perspective in particular from such a development.

Ad 2. Baby Beach

The public in general and the San Nicolas people in particular have after many years attained access to their own little beach p'ariba di brug, known to us all as Baby Beach. There is a broad scope of worries that, in a direct or indirect manner, the hotel will lay claim to Baby Beach. We would highly appreciate your fullest support that this will not happen, now nor in the future, and that you will personally see to it that the necessary preventative measures will be included in the license of the hotel to guarantee that this is not an option.

We are fully aware that San Nicolas has a very special place in your heart and we look forward to your reply to us and to the public in general that you will guarantee that these concerns can be laid to rest, once and for all.

With the Highest Esteem,
Roland W. Peterson
President SNBA

Bar Code Feature of New Dutch Commem

To honor the 100th anniversary of the Netherlands mint building in Utrecht in 2011, the Dutch Ministry of Finance has issued a commemorative coin.

A special feature of this coin is a two-dimensional "QR" bar code. This graphic image stores information both horizontally – as one-dimensional bar codes do – and vertically. QR bar codes are often used in conjunction with smart phones where the user photographs the bar code with the camera on a phone equipped with a bar code reader. This function enables the user to see relevant websites on the phone.

Such bar codes are now gaining increased use in trade and commerce, used for such things as airplane boarding passes and targeted advertising. In this case, scanning the bar code on the coin directs the user to a website devoted to more information about the coin and the building it celebrates.



brates.

The coin was designed by mint engraver Juan José Sánchez Castaño, who contrasts the old and the new in the design with the bar code positioned within a representation of an old screw press that sits in the lobby of the mint. The obverse bears a traditional presentation of Queen Beatrix.

The first strike was scheduled for June 22 with deliveries beginning by the middle of July. The gold and silver versions have mintages of 3,500 and 12,500 coins, respectively.

No bling, religious symbols for Dutch police

Police officers may not wear flashy accessories or religious symbols. A spokesperson for the Minister of Justice said Wednesday that the ban is in line with the 2008 'police lifestyle neutrality' code of conduct.

Visible tattoos, Mohawk hairstyles and ostentatious ear-

rings all affect an officer's credibility, according to the code. Jewellery, such as dangling earrings or necklaces, can also be dangerous.

Symbols of religious expression, such as a cross on a chain, are also banned; police should be seen as being there for everyone.

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Professional team from Carabobo ready for games here

ORANJESTAD – The Arubaanse Voetbal Bond – Aruban football union – together with a visiting Carabobo, Venezuela professional team are ready for some friendly expositions games to take place here. The RCA and SV Bubali teams of Aruba will compete against Carabobo, which is a tremendous opportunity for our local teams to get greatly needed experience playing against a professional team.

The venue is the Complejo Deportivo Frans Figaroa in Noord and the schedule is as follows:

Friday July 15, at 8 p.m. - Bubali vs. Carabobo

Sunday, July 17 at 6 p.m. - RCA vs Carabobo

Thursday, July 21 at 8 p.m. - Aruba national selection vs. Carabobo

Entrance: Adults Afls. 5 and children Afls.2.

Aruba's local and national team encourages everyone, especially football fans, to come and support our teams as they compete as representing the entire island, not just as individual teams.

"We count each Aruban to cheers us on as they will be the 12th player of the game," a spokesperson said.

Chevrolet Cruze now at Stern Motors



Purchasing a new car is a thoughtful process which relates to your lifestyle and budget as well as a reflection of your personal style. The Chevrolet Cruze is designed and created for someone who is always striving to progress and likes to explore new possibilities. The latest model signals innovation, renovation and refinement in

compact vehicles.

Experience adventure and new emotions when driving a Chevrolet Cruze; its sporty in design but with the advantages of a 4-door car. The interior is characterized by its elegance and refinement, usually only seen in luxury cars. The interior design is 'dual cockpit' style, a heritage of the legendary

Corvette.

Chevy Cruze features a 1.8 liter, 4 cylinder engine and a 6 speed transmission with tip up/tip down gear switch, for increased fuel efficiency.

With this latest design, engineering and manufacturing, the Chevrolet Cruze broke all rules of innovation for compact cars.

The vehicle is design by a multi-national team of experts from Germany, the U.S.A., South Korea and Australia. Together they created a revolutionary vehicle that reflects finesse in the details and parts assembly. The Cruze has a sportive look but at the same time very spacious; accommodating 4 passengers and driver in comfort.

Cruze was acknowledge internationally for its elegant design and received numerous awards, including 'Urban

Car of the Year' from Automotive Journalists, 'Safest Car of the Year' in Argentina, 'Manufacturers WTCC' in Macau, Top Safety Pick 2011 by IIHS (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety), a 5 star rating by NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), and Motoring Car of the Year: Best Small Car sedan.

Chevrolet Cruze has a complete safety package with passengers' wellbeing in

mind; safety is high priority. This is the reason it was awarded 5 Stars in impact tests and was certified by the European NCAP (New Car Assessment Program).

Stern Automotive Enterprises, situated at Tanki Leendert 122, is the exclusive auto dealer of Chevrolet on Aruba. Call 582-3838 to arrange to see the new Chevrolet Cruze or send an e-mail to sterngm@setarnet.aw.



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Sci-Tech

Chinese man makes iPad look-a-like from scratch



BEIJING (AFP)—An enterprising Chinese man has come up with a solution for gadget-crazy people who desperately want Apple's popular iPad tablet computer but cannot afford it -- DIY.

In a 20-minute video posted on Youku -- the Chinese YouTube equivalent -- Liu Xinying demonstrates how to assemble an iPad look-a-like using computer parts, a touch screen and a case with a keypad, to the sound of metal music.

At the end of the video dubbed "DIY IPAD 3", the IT

whizz shows off the finished version -- an apparently functional tablet computer that looks like a thick iPad but runs on Windows, an operating system made by rival Microsoft.

When contacted by AFP, the 21-year-old from the eastern province of Shandong said that since he posted the video online a month ago, he has knocked back requests from a dozen people wanting him to make them a DIY iPad.

"It cost me 2,000 yuan (\$309) to make it, so I guess that's how much it's worth."

By comparison, the cheapest 16-gigabyte version of the iPad 2 sells for 3,688 yuan in China, while the most expensive 64-gigabyte model costs 5,288 yuan.

Last month, a court in the southern province of Guangdong sentenced three people to prison for stealing the design to the iPad 2 and using it to make fake tablet computers.

Whales 'at threat from Russia's oil boom'

LONDON (AFP)—Sonic blasts used in oil exploration pose a mounting threat to whales, especially a critically endangered species that feeds and breeds near Russia's Sakhalin Island, the global whaling forum has heard.

Britain and the United States voiced fears that plans to build a third oil and gas platform near the Pacific island could affect a species called the Western gray whale, delegates at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting said.

Belgium said 12 countries had written to Moscow, urging it to pressure the Sakhalin Energy Investment Corporation to postpone an upcoming seismic survey.

Used to detect subsea oil deposits, seismic surveys require shooting large pulses of sound into the ocean floor.

Shockwaves can disrupt the ability of whales to feed or communicate and -- if the sea mammals are too close -- cause tissue damage, scientists say.

China orders US oil giant to halt rigs after spill

Outcry in China after massive oil spill is kept hidden for a month



BEIJING (AFP)—China said Wednesday it had ordered US oil giant ConocoPhillips to immediately stop operations at several rigs in an area off the nation's eastern coast polluted by a huge slick.

The 840-square-kilometre (336-square-mile) slick emanating from the oil field in Bohai Bay -- which ConocoPhillips operates with China's state-run oil giant CNOOC -- has caused huge anger amid allegations of a cover-up.

On Wednesday, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said operations would not be allowed to resume before the source of the spill was fully plugged and "risks eliminated", as fears over the long-term impact on the

environment grow.

CNOOC said last week the spill -- which was detected on June 4 but only made public at the beginning of July -- was "basically under control" while ConocoPhillips told reporters the leaks had been plugged.

The official China Daily newspaper said last week that dead seaweed and rotting fish could be seen in waters around Nanhuan Island near the site of the slick.

CNOOC has been slammed by state media and green groups over the spill, and it emerged on Tuesday that the firm was cleaning up another slick after a breakdown at a rig off the northeast coast.


In a separate incident, a CNOOC refinery in the southern province of Guangdong caught fire Monday but there were no casualties, the company said, adding the cause of the blaze was still under investigation.

The refinery is located about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the Daya Bay nuclear power plant, according to the official Xinhua news agency.




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Health & Living

HIV drugs boost prevention hopes



An AIDS patient prepares her pill-box with antiretroviral medication at a clinic in Cape Town, South Africa.

Heterosexuals who take daily AIDS drugs reduce the risk of being infected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by nearly two-thirds, ground-breaking studies said on Wednesday.

Campaigners hailed what they described as a powerful new weapon in the three-decade war against AIDS.

A trial called Partners PrEP, conducted by the University of Washington, followed 4,758 "sero-discordant" heterosexual couples -- in which one person had HIV and the other was uninfected -- in Kenya and Uganda.

The uninfected partner received either a dummy pill or a tablet containing either the HIV drug tenofovir or a combination of tenofovir and emtricitabine.

In the group receiving tenofovir, there were 62 percent fewer infections compared with the placebo group.

In the tenofovir/emtricitabine group, there were 73 percent fewer infections over counterparts taking the placebo.

The results were so remarkable that safety monitors recommended the probe be stopped early, for to continue it would have been unethical.

The second trial, conducted by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), followed 1,219 uninfected men and women in Botswana who received either placebo or the tenofovir/emtricitabine combination.

Those who received the antiretroviral pill reduced the risk of HIV infection by 63 percent compared with the placebo group.

They are the first trials to show that so-called pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, can work among heterosexuals.

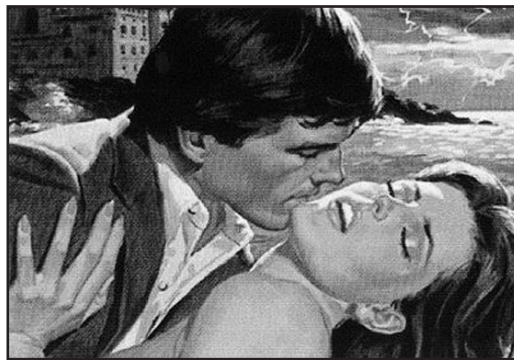
In May, a big study conducted among sero-discordant heterosexual couples in Africa showed early use of drugs by the infected partner slashed the risk of transmitting HIV to the other partner by 96 percent.

Put together, these trials add massively to the argument that the world's AIDS pandemic can be slowed by wider distribution of antiretrovirals, said activists.

More than 33 million people are living with the AIDS virus, according to estimates for 2009 released last year by UNAIDS.

Palpitating fiction:

Are romantic novels bad for Women?



AFP - It's all innocent stuff: square-jawed boy meets doe-eyed girl, they fall in love, encounter a few rocky moments but ultimately seal their union with a kiss or a vague hint of sex.

Wholesome yarns like this form the heartbeat of romantic fiction, a genre that has been in existence since the mid-18th century and today sells by the bucketload.

But, according to a debate launched last week by a medical journal in Britain, romantic novels are an invisible yet

potent threat to women's sexual and emotional health.

A commentary blasts these formulaic books for failing to promote safe sex and encourage patience in achieving female orgasm --

and for defining the success of a relationship as the ability to crank out babies.

"If readers start to believe the story that romantic fiction offers, then they store up trouble for themselves," says British author and relationship counsellor Susan Quilliam.

Quilliam, writing in the Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care, says that, according to a survey, only 11.5 percent of romantic novels mention condom use.

Even the steamier offerings

of romantic fiction are dismal failures when it comes to sexual health, she contends.

The typical bodice-ripper ends "with the heroine being rescued from danger by the hero, and then abandoning herself joyfully to a life of intercourse-driven orgasms and endless trouble-free pregnancies in order to cement their marital devotion."

In fairness, says Quilliam, romantic fiction today has broadened its spectrum.

Standard characters such as the brutal count and apple-cheeked maid have been supplemented by single mums, sensitive men, partners who each have to juggle daily jobs or cope with addictions, disabilities and even domestic violence.

Even so, these books fail miserably when it comes to sexual pleasure and dealing with the ups-and-downs of relationships, she says.

According to figures cited by Quilliam, romance accounts for nearly half of all fiction bought, and some fans read up to 30 titles a month.

For all its popularity, the genre has only been rarely explored to see how influential it is on its readers, says Quilliam, who suspects though that it could have massive clout.

In rats, advances in combatting paralysis; study



Neuroscientists reported on Wednesday they had made inroads against spinal injury by restoring breathing in lab rats whose key cervical nerves had been severed.

The technique has yet to be tested on humans, but if it works could ease one of the biggest problems for people with catastrophic damage to their spinal cord, they said.

Damage above the fourth cervical vertebra in the neck invariably interrupts breathing. The patient has to be put on a ventilator, and this carries a recurrent danger of respira-

tory infection.

Under normal circumstances, the rate and depth of breathing are controlled automatically by nerve cells in the brain stem.

To do this, these neurons in turn control specialised motor cells located from the third to the sixth cervical vertebrae.

These cells develop farther down into the so-called phrenic nerve, which causes the muscles of the diaphragm to relax and contract and the lungs to fill and empty.

A team led by Jerry Silver, a professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Ohio, report on an experimental way of bridging damage in the key cervical area.

They injured rats' spinal cords at the second cervical level to paralyse one-half of the diaphragm, and grafted in a tiny section of peripheral

nerve from the rodents' limbs, attaching it both before and after the damage site.

The idea was to use the peripheral nerve as a bridge on which the precursor cells for the phrenic nerve could grow.

The technique had been tried before but was hampered by molecules which build up at the site of spinal cord injuries and inhibit regrowth of nerves.

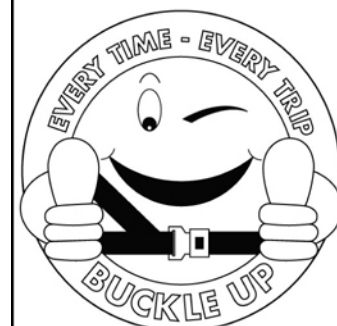
To get around this, the researchers injected an enzyme called chondroitinase ABC at both ends of the graft to degrade the inhibitors and open up avenues in the scar tissue through which the nerves could -- hopefully -- grow.

After three months, tests showed that between 80 and 100 percent of breathing function had been restored, a performance that was maintained at the six-month mark.

The study appears in the British journal Nature.

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Hugo Chavez: I may need chemotherapy

CARACAS, Venezuela - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez acknowledged yesterday he may need radiotherapy or chemotherapy for cancer treatment that has rattled the OPEC member nation he has dominated for 12 years.

The 56-year-old socialist leader's most detailed comments to date on his condition raised the prospect of a lengthy health battle. Such a scenario could undermine Chavez's ability to govern Venezuela and run for re-election in 2012.

In a lengthy, dawn telephone chat with state TV, an unusually self-reflective Chavez said his operation last month in Cuba had removed a "baseball-size" tumor.

The threat of malignant cells spreading remained "latent" and needed robust treatment, he added.

"It will probably require known methods ... that could be radiotherapy or chemotherapy to hit hard, with the cavalry, whatever latent possibility is there," Chavez said.

The president said he was undergoing organ-by-organ checks.

"I don't want, I mustn't give more details," he said.

Mystery and rumor have surrounded Chavez's precise condition since surgery in Cuba last month.

Allies insist he is in a recovery phase, but one source close to his medical team has



Hugo Chavez greets supporters next to his two daughters: Rosa Virginia, left, and Maria Gabriela at a balcony of the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas.

said he faces long chemotherapy for colon cancer.

Though he has reasserted political control with his return to Venezuela last week and wants to appear strong, the charismatic but authoritarian Chavez is notably paler and more meditative than usual, sometimes walking awkwardly.

Famous for hours-long speeches and a punishing work schedule, Chavez said he has to scale back his one-man, micromanaging style. He has no obvious successor.

Chavez's condition has upended politics in Venezuela.

While his closest aides have united behind him in public, analysts say there is plenty of jostling going on among different factions of the ruling Socialist Party in case Chavez

deteriorates and needs a replacement.

Venezuela's opposition has sought to avoid any sense of triumphalism over the ill health of a man who has outfoxed -- and often mistreated -- them for 12 years. But they sense a window of opportunity for the 2012 vote.

His often fanatic supporters are praying for his recovery, while the many Venezuelans who hate him with equal passion are quietly hoping he will leave the political stage soon.

In a new report on Venezuela, Moody's investors service said Chavez would certainly run next year if he can. "But ongoing questions over his health could impact his chances of victory against a unified opposition candidate," it added.

Dutch-American astronomer Tom Gehrels dies

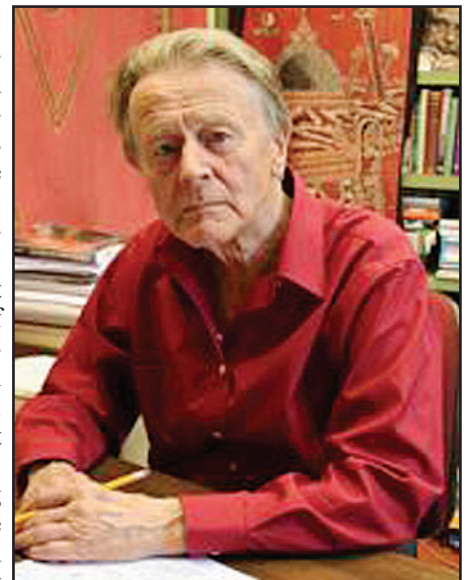
Tom Gehrels, an internationally noted planetary scientist and astronomer at the University of Arizona, as well as a hero of the Dutch Resistance during WWII, died Monday. He was 86.

In a career that spanned more than half a century, Gehrels fostered new research on asteroids and comets, including those that pose a threat to Earth.

Gehrels was among the first members of the fledgling Lunar and Planetary Laboratory when he joined the UA in 1961. During a long and distinguished career Gehrels pioneered new research on asteroids and comets, especially those that pose a collision threat to Earth. He also developed and taught introductory astronomy courses that were popular with non-science undergraduates.

Anton M.J. Gehrels was born Feb. 21, 1925, in Haarlemmermeer, the Netherlands. When Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands in 1939, Gehrels joined the Dutch Resistance, fled to England and later was part of Britain's Special Operations Executive, which sabotaged and spied on the Germans.

After graduating from Leiden University in the Nether-



lands in 1951 with a degree in physics and astronomy, Gehrels earned a doctorate in astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Chicago in 1956. During the 1950s, Gehrels pioneered the first photometric system of asteroids and discovered the opposition effect in the brightness of asteroids.

In 1980, Gehrels started the Spacewatch Project, which uses telescopes on Kitt Peak, near Tucson, to survey the sky for asteroids, including potentially dangerous ones.

In April 2011, Gehrels was honored for his 50 years of service at the annual University of Arizona Service Awards luncheon.

Services for Gehrels have not yet been announced.



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RBC introduces its Retail Banking Brand in Jamaica

PORT-OF-SPAIN – Ahead of rebranding RBTT's Dutch Caribbean and Suriname businesses, Suresh Sookoo, Chief Executive Officer, Caribbean Banking, RBC, recently announced the start of formal operations under the RBC banner in Jamaica, with RBC Royal Bank replacing RBTT as the retail banking brand. Rebranding of RBTT's Dutch Caribbean and Suriname operations is expected to be completed by end of 2011.

"Today marks a significant milestone for our company as we bring the history and heritage of RBTT and RBC in the Caribbean together for the benefit of our clients," Sookoo commented at a formal unveiling event attended by ministers of government, longstanding personal and business clients and other specially invited guests from the community.

RBC first entered Jamaica in 1911 and in 2008 it acquired RBTT Financial Group, creating one of the most extensive banking networks in the Caribbean.

RBC commenced its regional rebranding on June 6 in Trinidad and Tobago and in the coming months, its op-

erations across the Caribbean from the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados, to the Dutch Caribbean business comprising 22 branches and 89 ATMs across Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, Saba, St. Maarten and Suriname, will all adopt the new RBC brand. The existing RBC operations in the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, Eastern Caribbean and Barbados will also move to the updated brand expression to create one RBC in the Caribbean.

The Bank will continue to focus on integrating its businesses onto a common platform across the Caribbean and enhancing client experience by simplifying the way it does business.

Sookoo said the rebranding leverages RBC and RBTT's more than 100-year heritage in the Caribbean as the Bank puts its global and regional strength to work for clients: best-in-class global banking practices and resources with in-depth local knowledge of the region.

"The rebranding signals our confidence in the future and demonstrates the strength, heritage and stability of RBC to all our stakeholders," he said.

Eman looking forward to running at US 131



UNION, South Carolina -- The ADRL Summer Nationals promises to live up to its name with 80+ degree temperatures. A hot weather tune up is going to be critical and Team Aruba is hoping their combination will be just what they need. Last year the team qualified third at this event, so there's no doubt that they know how to run at the top at US 131 Motorsports Park.

"This is one of my favorite stops on the tour," said driver Trevor Eman. "It's a great track and the staff always goes out of their way to make

this a great event. We have great fan support there and it's just all around a wonderful race. Last year we ran well at the Summer Nationals, so I'm hoping we can use that information and perform well again. We'll just have to play the cards we're dealt with the weather. Everyone is in the same boat, so we can't complain!"

Team Aruba is looking for their first win in their eye-catching 2011 Hass-built Aruba.com Mustang.

"This car certainly has the ability to run at the top and

make it to the winner's circle. We've had a bit of a learning curve, but we're starting to settle into a rhythm with it now. I hope we can get a win for the fans. Come on out to the US 131 and cheer us on!"

Fans, keep up with Team Aruba at www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba!

For more on your Aruba vacation visit www.Aruba.com.

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The perfect way to celebrate your birthday on Aruba is by Partying with the Kukoo Kunuku Party Bus!

Recently, Mel turned 30 last and had a blast on the bus with her crazy friends.

With a birthday hat on her head getting congratulated by the other Kukoo friends at the champagne toast, it was a great beginning to a fabulous night of celebration on our beautiful island.

After an evening of dining, dancing, drinking and having Fun the busdriver Victor made sure everyone got safely home.

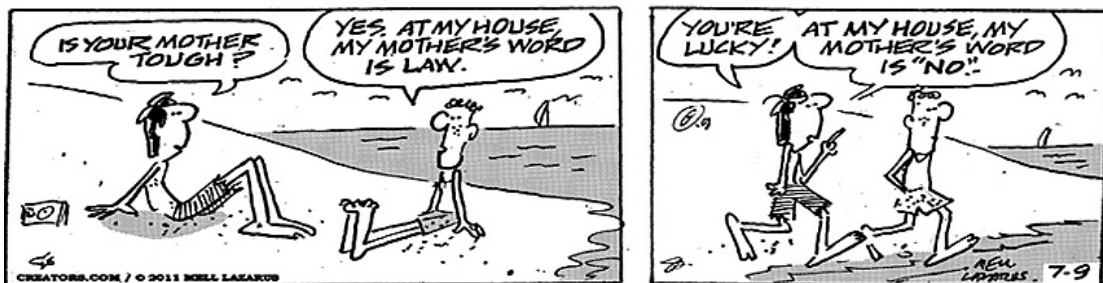


COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Weapon
4. The one here
8. Air-rifle ammo
11. Luau garland
12. Scarlett's surname
13. Grassland
14. Mauna ____
15. Abandoning
17. Compelled
19. Trash receptacle
20. Fasteners
22. What's-his-name (hyph.)
26. Do dock work
27. Bank machines (abbr.)
28. Fuel economy stat
29. From ____ Z (2 wds.)
30. Shine
31. Telecast
32. Kin (abbr.)
33. Bear's home
34. Less than twice
35. Give the meaning of
37. Shipping containers
38. Leia's "Star Wars" hero
39. Snide comment
40. Quick fix for faded upholstery
44. Large coffeepot
47. Bonn "one"
48. Wear away
49. Rock's ____

DOWN

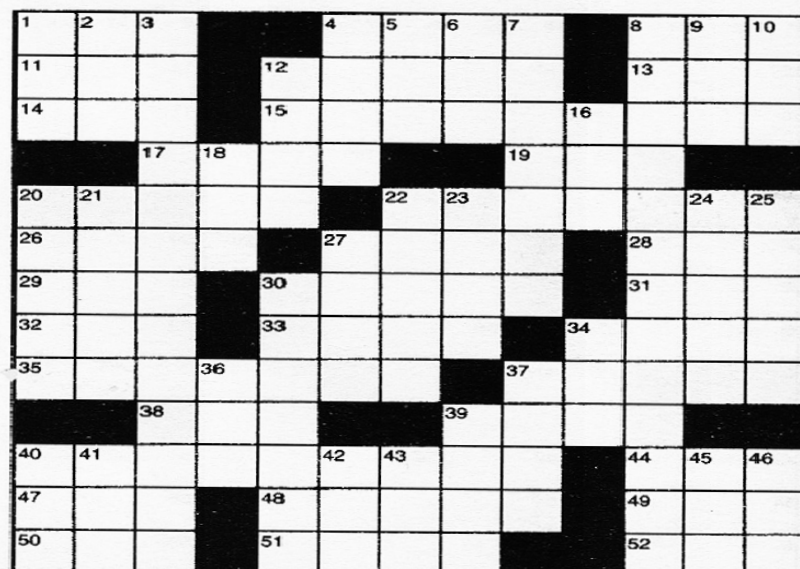
1. Tide rival
2. Car named after Ransom E. Olds
3. Don Shula's football team (2 wds.)
4. Penn's pronoun
5. Holds
6. Extreme anger
7. Irony
8. Schoolyard game (2 wds.)
9. Stiller of

"Duplex"

10. Droop
12. Ten to one, e.g.
16. Sunbather's hue
18. Gorilla or chimpanzee
20. ____ Boothe Luce
21. Doctor's glove material
22. Ale holder
23. General Bradley
24. Flavor enhancer
25. Hideous monsters
27. Jai ____
30. Took a quick look at
34. Dinghy need
36. Track unit

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Numbers

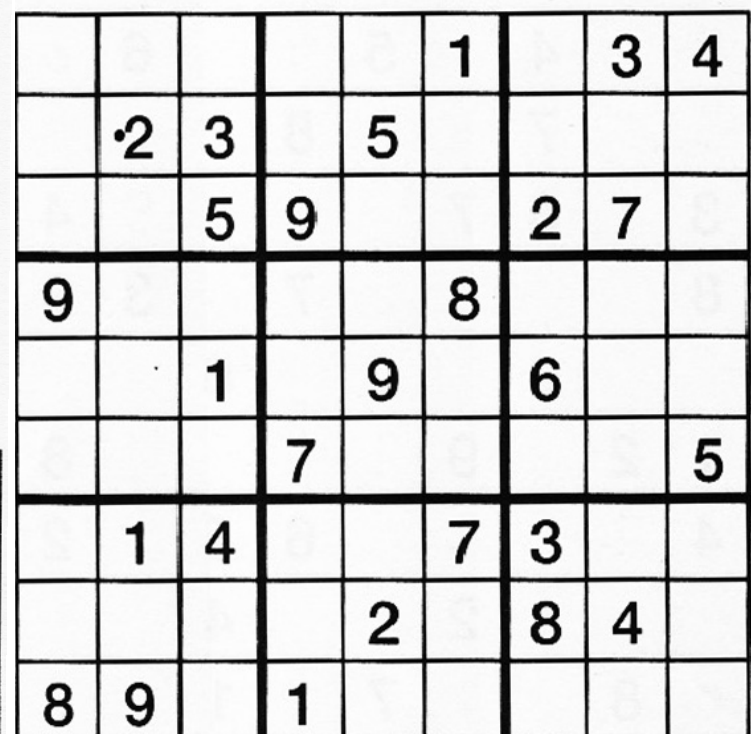
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	9	2	8	7	1	2	6	8
1	7	8	6	2	9	2	9	8
2	6	8	2	8	9	7	1	9
9	1	6	2	9	2	8	8	7
8	8	9	9	6	7	1	2	2
2	2	7	8	1	8	9	9	6
8	2	2	9	8	6	9	7	1
6	9	1	7	9	8	8	2	2
7	8	9	1	2	2	6	8	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

US debt default would trigger global 'crisis': Bernanke

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - US central bank chief Ben Bernanke warned Wednesday that a US debt default would trigger a "major crisis" in the global economy, as the White House and its Republican foes groped for a budget deal.

The Fed chief told lawmakers that failure to reach a deal by August 2 deadline could "throw the financial system into enormous disarray and have major impacts on the global economy" if Washington halts debt payments.

Bernanke told the House Financial Services Committee that the United States could keep making payments on debt principal and interest absent an increase in the congressionally set debt ceiling -- but at a crippling cost.

The cash-strapped US government would have to slash domestic spending by as much as 40 percent, which could bring fragile economic growth to a standstill at a time when unemployment stands at a historically high 9.2 percent.

His warnings came as the US Senate effectively killed a symbolic Democratic resolution urging tax increases on the rich, a step Republicans fiercely oppose maintaining it would smother investment and stifle job growth.

The measure, which said "any agreement to reduce the budget deficit should require that those earning \$1,000,000 or more per year make a more meaningful contribution to the deficit reduction effort," fell short of overcoming a procedural roadblock in the Democratic-led chamber.

Republican Senate Minor-

ity Leader Mitch McConnell, who unveiled a surprise plan Tuesday that would effectively let Obama raise the debt ceiling with just Democratic support and without cutting spending, renewed his call for a balanced budget amendment to the US Constitution.

Republicans have embraced fiscal discipline since Obama took office, after years in which they backed massive tax cuts and rejected paying for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq or a costly increase in a popular health care program.

Leading Democrats and the White House greeted McConnell's proposal carefully, but it was unclear whether the

plan would rally enough Republican support to pass the divided US Congress.

Obama has called for daily talks to reach a deal to lift the US debt ceiling, now at \$14.29 trillion, in the face of a budget deficit expected to hit \$1.6 trillion this year.

The US hit the ceiling on May 16 and has used spending and accounting adjustments, as well as higher-than-expected tax receipts, to continue operating without impact on government obligations.

But by August 2, the government will have to begin withholding payments to bond holders, civil servants, retirees or government contractors.

US deficit shrinks in nine months



WASHINGTON, (AFP) - The US deficit shrank 3.3 percent in the first nine months of fiscal 2011, the Treasury department said Wednesday, but remained a gaping \$970 billion.

Receipts surged 8.6 percent in the nine months to June over last year, and for the most recent quarter were up 11 percent.

Together with tighter spending, the government was able to continue closing the budget gap for the fiscal that began October 1.

But the buoyant receipts did not affect the Treasury's August 2 deadline for the US to increase its \$14.3 trillion borrowing cap or possibly be forced to default on debt, Treasury sources indicated.

The White House and Congressional Republicans have been locked for weeks in a battle over a long-term plan to pare the deficit, and Republicans have refused to agree to a ceiling hike unless they can get a plan that includes only spending cuts and no tax increases.

The White House and Democrats are arguing for a package that includes tax increase.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

T	S	E		P	E	A	K		G	U	A	M
E	E	L		E	Y	R	E		I	F	S	O
S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	S	L	O	P	E
S	L	E	E	P		S	I	D				
				T	Y	R	A		P	A	T	C
T	H	E	A		I	B	M	S		R	A	E
B	A	W	L		M	B	A		J	I	V	E
S	H	E		L	E	O	N		O	P	E	D
P	A	R	D	O		T	E	E	N			
				E	R	R			D	A	R	E
W	H	I	T	E	A	S	A	G	H	O	S	T
N	O	D	E		T	A	T	E		U	P	A
W	E	A	R		A	W	E	D		T	N	T

News Corp. scraps BSKyB bid

LONDON, (AFP) - Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. on Wednesday withdrew its bid for British pay TV giant BSKyB in the wake of a growing scandal over newspaper phone hacking linked to the US-based media empire.

News Corp. had in June 2010 bid £7.8 billion (\$12.5 billion, 8.6 billion euros) for the 60.9 percent of satellite broadcaster BSKyB it does not own.

Despite BSKyB rejecting the 700-pence-per-share offer as too low and News Corp. facing opposition over the deal from media rivals on competition grounds, Murdoch had been intent on capturing full control of the broadcaster.

However News Corp. has

decided to walk away after its British newspaper, the News of World tabloid, was accused of hacking the voicemails of a murdered girl and the families of dead soldiers.

Following Wednesday's developments, BSKyB shares closed 1.95-percent higher at 705.5 pence in London.

Last week BSKyB's share price slumped from 850 pence to below the bid-offer of 700 pence as pressure was heaped on News Corp. to abandon its takeover. News Corporation's own share price has tumbled in recent days.

The Times, part of Murdoch's British stable of newspapers, said that News Corp. has agreed to pay BSKyB a fee of £38.5 million, a penalty for breaking off the deal.

AT&T sponsors Kindle 3G price cut

SAN FRANCISCO, (AFP) - Online retail powerhouse Amazon on Wednesday began selling a cut-price version of its Kindle 3G electronic reader sponsored by US telecom carrier AT&T.

Kindle 3G with Special Offers was priced at \$139 as compared with \$189 for the same e-reader without on-screen ads.

In May, Amazon began selling Wi-Fi-only Kindles featuring advertising and discounted prices. The AT&T version lets users download books where ever there is mobile telephone coverage.

"Kindle 3G is more convenient," said Amazon.com founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos. "Customers never have to hunt for or pay for a

Wi-Fi hotspot, they simply download and read books anytime, anywhere."

Kindle 3G is designed to connect to mobile networks in more than 100 countries at no cost to users, according to Amazon.

Kindle continues to dominate an increasingly competitive e-book reader market.

The first electronic book reader designed to tap into Google's vast online library will debut in the United States on Sunday.

A Story HD e-reader made by South Korea-based electronics firm iriver will be priced at \$140 when it becomes available at US retail chain Target on July 17, according to Google Books product manager Pratip Banerji.

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In the mood for BBQ-discover where islanders go: Baby Back Ribs

Every town has this ideal location for a terrific restaurant, but eateries come and go because none quite gets the recipe right for good food and appealing price; Oranjestad had such a spot at the far end of its main street, and brother Merly and sister Joanne Kelly came up with the solution. The island ambiance allows diners to relax and watch as the world goes by, offering a window on local life.

Arubans love their barbecue, but so many places offer it, you better be sure you have the quality at the right price with appealing side dishes to compete. Baby Back Ribs has occupied this cute little corner for three years now, and is an unqualified success. Lunch and dinner time you will see the locals lined up to either take home a serving stacked with a large selection of favorite regional dishes, such as Saté or the always popular standards of BBQ chicken or ribs.

Baby Back Ribs has been such a success it earned a spot in the Lonely Planet Caribbean Guide, which is dedicated to finding those great out of the way places tourists rarely discover and offer an authentic taste of their destination. Kristina and Shawn arrived on a cruise ship all the way from Alaska and confirmed that searching out Baby Back Ribs was well worth the effort. They shared the restaurant's ample portion of succulent spare ribs and awarded it two thumbs up.

Aside from the regular menu, the eatery offers at



Dig in



Shawn thanks lonely planet for a great recommendation

least three specials per day; usually costing \$5.50 for a regular portion and \$7 for the large, enough to feed two. They stay open late to cure a case of after disco munchies, and you can pre-order to take back to your timeshare or hotel room by calling 582-

4410.

If you are planning a shopping trip to town, pencil it in as your lunch stop and be sure to order one of their great homemade sauces, such as Chimichuri Picante or Papaya Pica for an authentic taste of island cuisine.



Elton John's 'Rocket Man' awakens space crew

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Singer Elton John's "Rocket Man" was played Wednesday to wake up the crew aboard the International Space Station, with the shuttle Atlantis docked on its last mission.

"I think it's going to be a long, long time," echoed the recording of the hit song, first released in 1972, at the ISS at

2:29 am, NASA said.

The lyrics, based on a short story by Ray Bradbury and which describe the feelings of an astronaut bound for a long-distance mission to Mars, were followed by a pre-recorded message from the 64-year-old British singer.

"Good morning, Atlantis, this is Elton John. We wish you

much success on your mission. A huge thank you to all the men and women at NASA who worked on the shuttle for the last three decades," the message said.

The song has previously been played to wake up a shuttle crew four times in the program's 30 year history, NASA said.

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WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

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BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

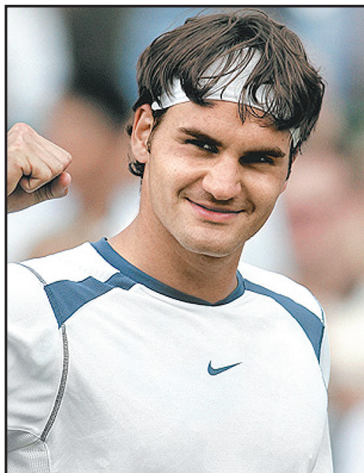
COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090

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Tennis star Federer launches school project in Malawi



MZUZU (AFP)-Top tennis star Roger Federer this week launched a \$3.3-million (2.4-million-euro) project that seeks to put 54,000 children in school in impoverished Malawi in the next 10 years.

"As the father of two little girls, I observe every day how incredibly fast children learn if their environment is a stimulating one," the 16-time Grand Slam winner said in a statement.

"It is a great privilege for me and my foundation to help give children in Malawi the chance to reach their full po-

tential," the Swiss star added.

The programme, through the Roger Federer Foundation, will be implemented in collaboration with development organisation Action Aid Malawi and will aim to build 80 community-based child care centres in six of the country's 28 districts.

The centres, aimed at three- to five-year-olds, will be equipped with classrooms, education supplies and play areas and also provide a "nutritious meal to every child in attendance," said Martha Khonje, country director of Action Aid.

"In a country where nearly half of all children under five are chronically malnourished and over three million children under eight are out of school, the initiative could not have come soon enough," Khonje told AFP.

She said Federer's foundation had been "looking to work with organisations who specialise in early child development, and we fitted into their requirement after submitting a concept paper."

Khonje said every day her organisation "witnesses devas-

tating impacts of children missing out on school, from low literacy rates to early pregnancy."

Malawi is one of Africa's poorest countries, with half its 13 million people living below the poverty line.

Founded in 2003, the Roger Federer Foundation supports education and sports projects that have enrolled almost 20,000 children in Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Switzerland, according to its website.



UK ticket wins £161mn in Euromillions lottery



LONDON (AFP)-A British ticket holder has won a record £161 million (185 million euros) in the Euromillions lottery, lottery operator Camelot announced.

The lucky UK player matched all five main numbers and both Lucky Stars to take home the bumper prize in Tuesday night's draw.

Two other UK-based lottery players won £1.7 million after matching five numbers and one Lucky Star.

A spokesman for Britain's National Lottery said: "This is amazing news. We are absolutely delighted that a UK ticket holder has scooped the entire 185 million euro jackpot."

"In addition, two UK ticket-holders in the next prize level down won £1.7 million for matching five main numbers and one Lucky Star.

"We've got the champagne on ice and look forward to welcoming the ticket holders into the National Lottery millionaires' club," added the spokesman.

The previous record holder was also a player from Britain who won £113 million in October 2010.

The Euromillions lottery, launched in 2004, is now played by nine countries across western Europe: Austria, Belgium, Britain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.



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Prosecutors: DNA links Clemens to doping

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Prosecutors vowed to produce DNA evidence linking Roger Clemens to steroids, but a defense lawyer countered the evidence was "manufactured" in opening arguments Wednesday in the baseball star's perjury trial.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner as his league's top pitcher, is charged with perjury, false statements and obstruction of Congress for telling a US House of Representatives committee under oath that he never used steroids or human growth hormone in his Major League Baseball career.

Assistant US Attorney Steven Durham told jurors that cotton balls and needles that Clemens' former trainer, Brian McNamee, says he used to inject the pitcher were found to have traces of both steroids and Clemens' DNA.

Clemens has insisted that the only things McNamee ever injected him with were the common local anesthetic lidocaine for his joints and vitamin B-12.

His lawyer has said McNamee "manufactured" the evidence in question.

"He manufactured this stuff," Clemens' lawyer Rusty Hardin told jurors. "Roger Clemens' only crime was having the poor judgment to stay connected with Brian McNamee."

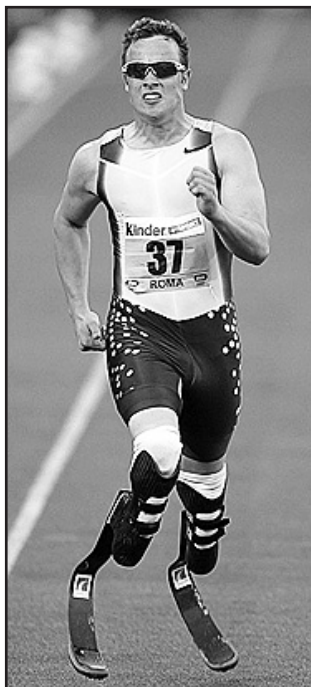
Hardin said the government was "horribly wrong" in pursuing a case against the player over his testimony before Congress three years ago.

Clemens, who turns 49 next month, was named in the Mitchell Report in December 2007 as one of 86 players who took performance-enhancing drugs but he steadfastly denied the allegations and pushed for a hearing before Congress.

Before US lawmakers, McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

"Everything Mr. McNamee says we intend to corroborate with independent evidence," Durham told jurors on Wednesday.

Pistorius runs in Italy for Daegu qualifying time



ROME (AFP) - South Africa's Oscar Pistorius, the famed "Blade Runner", has said he has two more races in which to try and register the qualifying time for next month's world championships in Daegu, South Korea.

The 24-year-old runner, who has a best time in the 400m of 45.61sec, intends to run two races in Italy - in Padua on Sunday and in Lignano on July 19, the deadline for qualification - hoping to record the 45.25sec time that he needs to compete in South Korea.

"I was hoping to collect my ticket for Daegu last Friday in Paris," he told Wednesday's Gazzetta dello sport.

"I will try again on the two occasions that remain open to me.

"But if it doesn't happen, it won't be a big drama. My real objective is to make the Olympic Games."

Pistorius, who had both lower legs amputated when he was 11 months old, has captured four Paralympic gold medals but since 2008 has been cleared to run in able-bodied races using his artificial legs: springy, lightweight, J-shaped limbs called "Cheetahs".

Players' revolt sees Feyenoord coach Been quit
THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutchman Mario Been has quit as Feyenoord coach after the players said they no longer had confidence in him, the Rotterdam-based club said Wednesday.

"A majority of the squad, represented by captain Ron Vlaar, informed technical director Martin van Geel that they no longer had confidence in carrying on with the coach," the club said.



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Britain's Cavendish wins Tour de France 11th stage



FRANCE -- British sprint king Mark Cavendish made amends for defeat by German rival Andre Greipel by notching up his 18th career victory in the Tour de France in the race's 11th stage on Wednesday.

Frenchman Thomas Voeckler, of Europcar, retained the yellow jersey after the 167.5km stage from Blaye-les-Mines to Lavaur, which ended in a group sprint after an early breakaway was caught 4km from the finish.

Voeckler finished the stage with all the yellow jersey favourites to retain his lead of 1min 49sec on Spaniard Luis Leon Sanchez of Rabobank.

The biggest yellow jersey contenders, Cadel Evans, Andy Schleck and Alberto Contador, sit in third, fifth and 16th places respectively at 2:26, 2:37 and 4:07 behind Voeckler.

Despite a late burst of rain

hindering the peloton's bid to catch a six-man breakaway that escaped inside the first 10km, Cavendish's HTC-Highroad were determined not to let the stage win slip away.

With Cavendish tipped for the win, they were given only scant help in the chase by rival sprinters' teams but in the end he was brought to the line in determined fashion by Australian lead-out man Mark Renshaw.

After taking possession of the green jersey for the points competition from Belgian champion Philippe Gilbert, the 26-year-old from the Isle of Man was ecstatic.

"It's incredible to have the green jersey, it's the most beautiful jersey in the world," said Cavendish, who also won stage five in Cap Frehel and stage seven in Chateauroux.

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Watson tipping Donald for British Open glory

ENGLAND--Tom Watson believes Luke Donald will be the man to beat at the British Open after a stellar start to the season which has propelled him to the top of the world rankings.

Five-time Open champion Watson said Donald's hat-trick of victories in 2011 indicated the 33-year-old world No.1 was primed to score his maiden Major win when the championship tees off at Royal St George's on Thursday.

"Who is going to win? Luke Donald has won three tournaments this year. Who else has won three? It is good to go on those who win --

those are the guys who I bet on," said Watson.

Watson, who came within a putt of a sixth Open two years ago at Turnberry before losing a play-off, is also impressed with the way Rory McIlroy bounced back from his US Masters meltdown to win the US Open last month.

But the 61-year-old has not joined the rush to acclaim McIlroy as the natural heir to Tiger Woods.

"He is a young kid. He has won one Major," said Watson. "Whether he is going to be the next great player, we will see. We will check his career 10 years down the road."

Prince's homer lifts NL past AL



National League All-Star Prince Fielder #28 of the Milwaukee Brewers pose with the Ted Williams Most Valuable Player Award

PHOENIX -- Prince Fielder turned the Chase Field boos into cheers Tuesday night.

The 2011 All-Star Game MVP smacked a three-run homer to power the National League past the American League, 5-1, in the 82nd Midsummer Classic, providing the Senior Circuit with home-field advantage in the World Series.

"It's hard to beat great pitching and a three-run homer," NL manager Bruce Bochy said.

The Brewers slugger had been booed during Monday's State Farm Home Run Derby for leaving the D-backs' Justin Upton off the NL Derby squad, and Fielder was greeted likewise by a sellout crowd of 47,994 on Tuesday right up until he connected on Rangers pitcher C.J. Wilson's cutter in the fourth inning.

"He threw me a couple of cutters away, he threw me a two-seamer in and I fouled it off my foot and that kind of hurt," Fielder said of the at-bat. "And then I hit another



cutter to left-center. It was a good at-bat."

The win was the second straight for the NL, which had not won in 13 previous tries before last season. The last time the NL won back-to-back All-Star Games was 1995-96 as part of a three-game winning streak.

MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	55	35	.611	--	PHILADELPHIA	57	34	.626	--
NY YANKEES	53	35	.602	1.0	ATLANTA	54	38	.587	3.5
TAMPA	49	41	.544	6.0	NY METS	46	43	.505	11.0
TORONTO	45	47	.489	11	WASHINGTON	46	46	.500	11.5
BALTIMORE	36	52	.409	18	FLORIDA	43	48	.473	14
Central					Central				
DETROIT	49	43	.533	--	MILWAUKEE	49	43	.533	--
CLEVELAND	47	42	.528	0.5	ST. LOUIS	49	43	.533	--
CHICAGO	44	48	.478	5.0	PITTSBURG	47	43	.522	1.0
MINNESOTA	41	48	.461	6.5	CINCINNATI	45	47	.489	4.0
KANSAS	37	54	.407	11.5	CHICAGO	37	55	.402	12.0
West					West				
TEXAS	51	41	.554	--	HOUSTON	30	62	.326	19.0
LA ANGELES	50	42	.543	1.0	SAN FRANCISCO	52	40	.565	--
SEATTLE	43	48	.473	7.5	ARIZONA	49	43	.533	3.0
OAKLAND	39	53	.424	12.0	COLORADO	43	48	.473	8.5
					LA DODGERS	41	51	.446	11.0
					SAN DIEGO	40	52	.435	12.0

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Chile win Pacifico clasico; Uruguay book Argentina clash

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Chile took neighbourly bragging rights on Tuesday at the Copa America, winning their Pacifico clasico with Peru 1-0 to top Group C while Uruguay edged Mexico 1-0 to book a quarter-final with hosts Argentina.

Four-time finalists Chile have been playing some of the best football at the championship and deservedly saw off two-time champions Peru - though it took an injury-time own goal from Peruvian defender Andre Carrillo to settle the encounter at Mendoza.

Both sides went into the game with the pressure largely off as they had garnered four points from their opening two games to guarantee further progress.

A flare-up between Jean Beausejour of Chile and Peru's Giancarlo Carmona proved a lowpoint, both men sent off on the hour by Brazilian referee Salvio Fagundes - to the fury of Peru coach Sergio Markarian, who contested the wisdom of Fagundes.

"This is the same one who deprived Colombia of a legitimate win against Argentina," insisted Markarian, referring to a penalty appeal denied the Colombians when their forward Radamel Falcao Garcia felt he had a claim for a foul in the box.

Veteran Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan ran the show, for Uruguay, having a hand in the goal while winning a record-equalling 79th cap for his country to go level with former keeper Rodolfo Rodriguez.

Saturday's quarter-final against the resurgent, Lionel Messi-inspired Argentinians, will be eagerly anticipated as both the hosts and the Uruguayans have won a joint record 14 continental titles.

The celeste also are the only team in 95 years of the tournament to deny Argentina victory on the home front - Argentina have won six out of eight events they have hosted but came a cropper to their near neighbours on the other two occasions, back in 1916 and 1987.

GROUP A	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
COLOMBIA	2	1	0	3	0	7
ARGENTINA	1	2	0	4	1	5
COSTA RICA	1	0	2	2	4	3
BOLIVIA	0	1	2	1	5	1

GROUP B	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
VENEZUELA	1	1	0	1	0	4
PARAGUAY	0	2	0	2	2	2
BRAZIL	0	2	0	2	2	2
ECUADOR	0	1	1	0	1	1

GROUP C	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
CHILE	2	1	0	4	2	7
URUGUAY	1	2	0	3	2	5
PERU	1	1	1	2	2	4
MEXICO	0	0	3	1	4	0

PLACES 1-2: DIRECT ENTRY INTO THE COPA AMERICA QUARTERFINALS **PLACE 3:** TOP TWO BEST THIRD PLACE FINISHES ARE GRANTED ENTRY INTO THE QUARTERFINALS.

FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011

Japan, USA set for World Cup final showdown



At left the US team, and at right Japan celebrates their entry into the Finals

FRANKFURT (AFP) - Japan and the United States set up a clash for the biggest prize in women's football after seeing off European hopefuls Sweden and France by identical 3-1 scorelines in Wednesday's semi-finals at the World Cup.

Asian hopefuls Japan emphatically beat Sweden in Frankfurt while earlier the United States used their vast experience to get past France in Moenchengladbach.

Despite their nickname Nadeshiko -- a pink flower symbolising grace and beauty -- the Japanese are proving no pushovers at Germany 2011 having beaten the hosts and two-time defending champions in the quarter-finals, and are now through to their first final.

Striker Josefine Oqvist had opened for Sweden after ten minutes but striker Nahomi Kawasumi netted goals either side of half-time while Japan captain Homare Sawa

capped another impressive display with her fourth goal in five games.

Earlier goals from Lauren Cheney (9), Abby Wambach (79), and Alex Morgan (82) kept the Americans' bid for an unprecedented third title after 1991 and 1999 on track. Sonia Bompastor got a goal back for France after 55 minutes.

"They had the advantage of their history, it's their sixth semi-final in six editions of the World Cup," said France captain Sandrine Soubeyrand.

"That made the difference. They were more efficient than us, we had a lot of chances. What we achieved will hit me later but now I'm just frustrated by the match. We need to move up another level."

"It was our experience that won it," said US striker Wambach, whose side are through to their first final in 12 years.

"For about 50 minutes they (France) set the tone and had the advantage and I was really asking myself how we could score."

Despite the French having most shots at goal it was the United States who went into the locker room with the half-time advantage after Cheney picked up a Heather O'Reilly cross to tap effortlessly into goal after nine minutes.

And for the second straight game Wambach scored a decisive header, this time after 79 minutes as she rose high to blast a Cheney corner past France goalie Berangere Sapowicz who was left helpless again three minutes later by a goal from substitute Morgan.

World number one team the United States, who are also the reigning and three-time Olympic champions, meet fourth-ranked Japan in the final here next Sunday.

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